



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

April 21, 2017

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.
THE BLACK VAULT
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1371775-000
Subject: LEE, GEORGE WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 18 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

A search of the Central Records System, to include any Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records maintained at FBI Headquarters indicated that records potentially responsive to the FOIA have been sent to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Since these records were not reviewed, it is not known if they are actually responsive to the FOIA.

If you wish to review these potentially responsive records, send your request to NARA at the following address using file number 44-HQ-8949 as a reference:

National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Please be advised that additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for the requested subject, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's

FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

G. 2. -4

✓ Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. Tele. Rm.
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

The Louisville Defender

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FRANK L. STANLEY, Editor - Publisher

Federal Intervention Necessary

President Eisenhower and the Department of Justice have a special responsibility in the outrageous lynching, gangland style, of the Reverend George Lee of Belzoni, Mississippi.

Those night riding murderers who committed the crime must be brought to justice. Only Federal intervention will provide ample protection for Negroes in the terror stricken state of Mississippi where white councils, akin to the Ku Klux Klan, threaten, intimidate, coerce and do bodily harm at will.

Local law enforcement officers in such tension states as Mississippi are often a part of the terror movement to "keep the Negro in his place." Strangely they are rarely on hand to protect the victims and usually are at a total loss as to who committed the crime—unless, of course, the perpetrator is a Negro.

Developments in Mississippi since the Supreme Court School Segregation decision have given adequate warning that violence would take place unless the Federal government indicated positively that it would take concrete steps to avoid such.

Hoodlum racists, held-bent on keeping the Negro from voting and out of mixed schools, have been running rampant.

Fear and hatred have been instilled; economic pressures exerted and every maneuver conceivable is being employed to force uncompromising Negro leadership either out of the locality or into continued acceptance of "white makes right."

The Reverend George Lee was one of those stalwarts who was determined to attain his rights. He would not be intimidated. He elected to pay the price of liberty with death itself. His noble example should serve to inspire others that only through the full exercise of the ballot can they ever hope to rid themselves of little men—men of hate and crime—from high places.

In his memory, Negroes everywhere are obligated to rededicate themselves to the right of suffrage for all. To go en masse to the registration halls and the voting places and kick out those officials who serve only white people.

The shame of Rev. Lee's brutal killing will reflect discredit on America around the world. It demonstrates anew that despite our written and oral pronouncements we are still reluctant to deal justly and forthrightly with lynchers who hide behind the blood-smeared cloaks of local law enforcement officers.

America is obligated to protect all of its citizens in the pursuance of Constitutional guarantees. This is especially necessary when a community openly decides to deprive a citizen of life, limb and liberty.

The murderers of Rev. Lee must be brought to justice and this utter disregard for the authority of our Constitution ended. Only immediate and effective Federal action in the Lee lynching will provide that reassurance which is so necessary in this period of peril.

THE LOUISVILLE DEFENDER

Louisville, Kentucky

DATE: 6-2-55

LS. FILE NO.:

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"MISSISSIPPI MURDER STIRS NEGROES"

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Willard
- Mr. Clinton

This is a clipping from
page 1313 of the

() Daily Worker
() The Worker
(X) New Leader

Date 7-4-55
Clipped at the Seat of
Government.

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71 AUG 1 1955



A VILLAGE OUTSIDE RANGOON: 'THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE KINGDOM AT TAGAUNG'

Burmese texts for schools), board member of the Mass Education Council (an effort to bring health and education to rural areas), and a patron of the modern boys' institution with the Victorian name of Home for Waifs and Strays. He virtually hounded the Health and Agricultural ministries to launch plans for providing school children with daily vitamins and milk. When the first batch of imported Sindhi cattle arrived by ship in Rangoon harbor and headed for the model dairy on the city outskirts, U Nu came personally to the wharf and ceremonially led the animals through the streets.

The U.S. Point Four and Burmese health team once planned a rural sanitation program estimated to take ten years. U Nu examined it in detail, approved it but decided that, if he mobilized and trained personnel in the Mass Education Council and Rehabilitation Brigade (for ex-rebels who are housed and taught a trade), the program could be executed in three years. When Burmese and American staffs dedicated the opening of the U.S.-aided transit-sheds and other equipment for the port of Rangoon (which cost about \$5 million), the Prime Minister was per-

fectly willing to have the Transport Minister officiate. But when a similar opening was planned for the Aung San Myo Health Center (which cost about \$200,000) U Nu and his wife, Daw Mya Yi, attended.

Similarly, U Nu is concerned about the health of the world body politic. If the infections of hate and suspicion and fear go unchecked, he told a conference of Army officers, "it is certain that World War III will come, and it will again be the cause of a far more violent World War IV. . . . If the present drift is not arrested in time . . . this great world, which has been built up for centuries by the people, will turn into one vast area of ruins and ashes."

U Nu is labeled "neutralist" along with Nehru of India and Soekarno of Indonesia. He is a leader of the Colombo Powers, helped convene the Bandung conference, and, in the words of one *Times*-man at Bandung, "seemed to gain in stature as the Indian leader faltered. His voice was an influential one behind the doors of the committee rooms at closed sessions."

But U Nu is more profoundly aware of the dangers of Communism than either Nehru or Soekarno, or,

for that matter, than many Western leaders. He grew up with Communists, lived and worked with them at close range during the 1930s and early 1940s, and saw them attempt to overthrow his democratic government. In the midst of the Communist insurrection, he took time to write a play, *The People Win Through*, anti-Communist to the core. He calls the Communists the "pied pipers." At Bandung, he specifically described how they tried to subvert Burma and how they were defeated.

He also knows at first hand the rigors of colonialism and imperialism—by both whites and non-whites (British and Japanese). As he said at Bandung:

"The peoples of Asia and Africa have once again begun to live. Having shaken off alien domination, they are endeavoring to redeem themselves from the moral and intellectual abyss into which they had been pushed by the dead weight of colonial imperialism. They, who live in the twentieth century but are not yet of the twentieth century, are in a hurry to make the transition. To accomplish this, they need peace more than anything else."



Mississippi Murder Stirs Negroes

By Simeon Booker

NEAR MIDNIGHT on May 7, 1955, the Reverend George W. Lee was driving home in Belzoni, Mississippi. He had just gotten his pressed pants from a tailor shop in readiness for preaching Sunday. As he drove along Church Street, nearing the Negro ghetto, a convertible pulled up beside him. There was a shot, then a second shot. Reverend Lee's car spun crazily from the dirt street, swerved across a walk and crashed into a shanty house, knocking the structure from its foundation and almost scaring to death the occupant, mid-wife Katherine Blair.

His face partially blown off, Reverend Lee groped from his wrecked car and staggered blindly. Two Negro taxicab drivers ran to him and helped him into their cab. He died on the way to a hospital.

Called to investigate, Belzoni Sheriff Ike Shelton took one look at the lifeless body and pronounced the death due to a concussion from the traffic accident. But Widow Lulu was not so sure. Despite Sheriff Shelton's attempts to persuade her to turn the body over to a Negro funeral home without the benefit of an autopsy, Mrs. Lee summoned two of her husband's best friends, Dr. C. C. Battle, 28-year-old Indianola physician and Dr. Cyrus Walden, a Yazoo City surgeon. Their examination disclosed a number of lead pellets about the minister's face and head. One shot

had passed through the neck at the throat, accounting for the fact that the minister was unable to talk en route to the hospital.

Meanwhile, since Belzoni telephone operators found it necessary to inform would-be Negro customers that all long distance lines were tied up, certain Negro leaders decided that the best way to break the news blackout was to organize expeditions to distant places. They agreed to send a carload of citizens to Dr. T. R. M. Howard, president of the powerful Mississippi Council of Negro Leadership, in Mound Bayou, and to Dr. A. H. McCoy, president of the much-feared National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in Jackson.

Shocked at the news, Dr. Howard immediately telephoned Detroit Negro Congressman Charles C. Diggs (who two weeks before had addressed a 13,000-person Council meeting in Mound Bayou which was attended by Reverend Lee). Diggs notified the White House as did the New York NAACP office, which Dr. McCoy had contacted. Later Dr. McCoy, after making a probe of the death car and finding lead pellets in a front tire, asked Mississippi Governor Hugh White to order an investigation of the killing. He was informed that the Governor "pays no attention to NAACP requests."

As a result of the national publicity given to what he and Dixie dailies reported originally as a "freak accident," Sheriff Shelton decided to send the gathered evidence to the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory in Washington. The autopsy

report came back several days later. The conclusion: death from a hemorrhage and asphyxiation. Evidence of lead pellets. Taken aback by his error, the sheriff theorized that Reverend Lee, being a "ladies' man," was probably killed by a rival. Painfully, however, he ordered a new investigation—Mississippi-style.

For a Negro Mississippi preacher, Reverend Lee was a powerhouse. He pastored four rural churches, and operated a grocery store and a printing shop. Unlike his brethren, he preached well beyond the range of the Bible and Heaven and the Glory Road. As an officer of the civil rights-minded Mississippi Council of Negro Leadership and a member of the NAACP, he sermonized about voting and eventually electing a Negro congressman.

Already annoyed by last year's Supreme Court decision outlawing Jim Crow public schools, the white planters, business people and church leaders decided to really crush the "revolutionary movement" within their midst. Organizing a White Citizens Council, they advocated the sanctioning of economic pressures and began financially mopping up the Negro leaders.

As one of Belzoni's first Negro vote registrants, Reverend Lee was a major target. The most militant Negro preacher in the Delta, he was warned "to get his name off the voting list or else." He received threatening telephone calls and members of his congregation frequently warned him of plans brewing among whites to eliminate him. But Reverend Lee refused to turn back. In paying his

SIMEON BOOKER, a former Harvard Nieman Fellow and reporter for the Washington Post, is now national editor of Jet magazine. He was the first reporter on the scene in Belzoni.

last respects to his fallen comrade, Dr. Howard noted that "There are still some Negroes left in Mississippi who would sell their grandmas for 50c. But Reverend Lee was not one of them."

Although he is one of the wealthiest Negroes in the state, Dr. Howard, 47, has staked his fortune to help his people. Founder of a clinic, insurance company, vegetable growers' association and a \$300,000 cotton gin operators' organization, he is known throughout the Delta for his hard-hitting Mississippi Council of Negro Leadership. Yearly the organization sponsors mass meetings in all-Negro Mound Bayou which feature outstanding speakers, such as Congressman Diggs and William L. Dawson (D., Ill.), and draw crowds above 12,000. Because of his aggressiveness for civil rights, Dr. Howard is the most hated Negro in the state; he has received more death threats than any other leader. While talking to FBI agents about the Lee killing, he received an anonymous telephone call that he was "next on the list."

His courage has attracted a new roster of outspoken Negro leaders and has touched off a full scale battle for civil rights, probably better organized in Mississippi than anywhere else in the Deep South. Among his top lieutenants are men who have personally suffered but who are continuing to stand up: Gus Courts and Fred Myles, Belzoni grocers who are unable to buy food from city wholesalers because of their militancy; T. V. Johnson, Belzoni undertaker who has been bucking economic pressure for months; Dr. Battle, the first Negro to vote in his county since Reconstruction, and Dr. James Stringer, Columbus dentist and former NAACP state president. Their combined leadership has awakened an entire generation of Mississippi Negroes. For the first time in state history their organized effort is causing rumblings from frightened white politicians.

"Reverend Lee was a warrior," charged Dr. Howard. "And he was

murdered because he refused to put down his arms in this civil rights battle. He was murdered because there are people in this state who oppose our having every advantage of citizenship. Reverend Lee died not as a cringing coward but as a hero. His death will be long remembered in this Delta land. He did not die in vain."

The first wave of FBI agents hit Belzoni when the Negro ghetto was tense with fear and anger. There were those who wanted revenge and there were those who wanted to forget. At first, few people talked. At the time of the shooting, the street was filled with good-timing Negroes, a typical Delta Saturday night outpouring. But the eye witnesses disappeared when they realized what they had seen.

Then Ruby Hurley, special NAACP investigator, moved into town. She quickly got on the trail of the witnesses. One eventually was located in East St. Louis, Illinois, another in a far-off Northern spot. They told a gruesome murder story involving two white men and a Negro who rode in the convertible which ran down the minister. They divulged the names of the trio.

Later, the FBI officially announced it was entering the case, which smacked of a modern-day lynching and was the first racial killing in the South since the Supreme Court's non-segregation school edict.

At the funeral, Mrs. Lee broke down in tears. A big-shouldered cotton worker comforted her. "Don't cry, Mam," he said. "Reverend Lee ain't really dead."

New Skyscraper Gives Chicago 'Bullish' Look

By Albert N. Votaw

CHICAGO
THE FIRST TENANTS start moving into Chicago's newest skyscraper this month. The 40-story Prudential Insurance Company building is not the tallest structure in the city; the statue of Ceres atop the Board of Trade building at the foot of the city's La Salle Street financial district tops it by a head. But patrons of the top-floor bar in the \$40-million lake front structure will be able to sip their drinks and admire the view over four states secure in the knowledge that they are seated under the highest rooftop in the city.

The Prudential skyscraper set a local legal precedent by being constructed on air rights over the Illinois Central Railroad, downtown suburban station. It established some sort of economic precedent, too, by being the first major Loop construction job to be undertaken by a pri-

vate firm since the boom of the Twenties. It joins a line of lush, luxury apartments going up along the lake front, giving a new and definitely bullish look to the city's skyline.

There is, in fact, a hearty optimism in the air, reminiscent of the late-Prohibition regime of Mayor William Hale Thompson—"Big Bill, the Builder," as he liked to be called. In addition to the Prudential building and the apartments, the city is spending heavily on a network of super highways and a series of city-owned downtown parking garages. (These last are losing money, so the enthusiasm attendant on their opening has been somewhat dampened. In fact, the local state's attorney has filed suit to collect delinquent property taxes from four owners of competing private lots, complaining that they are making money while the city is not.)

Vast, ambitious projects for urban redevelopment are under way. Since the war more than 1,000 new plants and 170,000 new jobs have been added to the city's total. Local businessmen feel that the wide diversification of industry here (greater than in other major industrial centers) is a hedge against any but the most generalized depression. In addition to being hog butcher for the world, etc., Chicago boasts the largest steel-producing capacity in the country and fully 25 per cent of the burgeoning electronic industry.

In the midst of all this bullish sentiment, the University of Chicago has appealed to its friends in commerce and industry for \$32.7 million in additional capital for the next ten years. Officials of the University that unlocked the door to the atomic age have admitted that budgetary problems have forced them into a defensive holding action. The budget has been brought back into balance for the first time since 1938 (a few war years excepted), but only at the cost of holding down faculty salaries and not replacing vacancies caused by the death or departure of top-ranking faculty members. Chancellor Lawrence A. Kimpton recognizes that money problems can hobble the 64-year-old institution with mediocrity.

It costs about \$20 million a year to run the University. Income from its \$72 million endowment, plus student fees, comes nowhere near this total. The deficit is met through gifts, which at present are inadequate, and Government research contracts. These last are fine for some scientific departments, but they don't help the rest of the University.

More than half the new funds, almost \$20 million, are allocated for improvement in teaching and research facilities. The largest single item, \$8.6 million, will go into faculty salaries. Other funds will go for teacher training programs, new books, remodeling classrooms, etc. Not on the list, unfortunately, is a new library. It would seem that overcrowding, poor ventilation and dim

lights will still bedevil the graduate student. As a matter of fact, when this writer was a student there, a plunge into the stacks was a veritable adventure; the intrepid researcher never knew when a fuse would blow, plunging the unfamiliar caverns into Stygian blackness, or when he might come across a pile of valuable tomes, forgotten and dust-covered in some corner.

Another \$2 million will go into the University's traditionally generous program of student scholarships and loans. And nearly \$11 million is earmarked for student housing and general neighborhood improvement.



KIMPTON: HUTCHINS PROGRAM OUT

This interest in neighborhood conservation is the University's most spectacular move since it split the atom. The University is the prime mover behind the South East Chicago Commission, which is at the forefront of an educational, legal and financial fight against the encroaching slums.

The SECC tries to persuade the notoriously lax municipal courts to levy more severe penalties against housing code violators. It also can operate behind the scenes, where actual ownership of a particularly objectionable building is concealed in a trust. In these instances the legal authorities are helpless. The SECC, however, can try to make the trustee-

ship untenable. One way of doing this is to get the insurance company holding the fire insurance to cancel out. This done, it is then a simple matter to get the bank to withdraw as trustee. The real owners are then smoked out.

The SECC's biggest project is a \$26.5 million slum clearance and redevelopment project for some 47 blighted acres, backed by city and Federal counterpart funds. The thorough planning of the local group has won high praise from Federal officials, who have held it up as an example for other communities seeking such Federal slum-clearance aid.

One of the victims of this new look has been the undergraduate general education program introduced by former Chancellor Robert M. Hutchins. Revisions in the program evoked student body demonstrations and protests by certain faculty groups; but the return to a more orthodox undergraduate program has increased enrollment. Now, to the horror of many of the Hutchins program advocates, the University is formally considering a return to inter-collegiate football as a method of further attracting healthy student material.

Authorities are not so ambitious as to think the University in its present condition can afford to buy a team that can stand up in Big Ten competition, but there is sentiment for an exchange with some of the smaller colleges in the area. Possibly the caution induced by financial exigencies is strengthened by Chicago's record in its final season in the big leagues, a record climaxed, if I am correct, by an 85-0 loss to Michigan.

Symptomatic of this change was the homage paid on alumni day to nonagenarian Amos Alonzo Stagg, whose term as football coach (1892-1933) included the good old days when Chicago was a football power. But even though 1905 was a banner year for the Maroon gridiron heroes, it is difficult to envision downy-cheeked undergraduates working up much enthusiasm over it.

Negro Baptists Urge President Act on Rev. Lee's Murder

Chicago, Aug. 1.—The association of Negro Baptist Churches here has demanded of President Eisenhower that he act immediately in the recent murder of the Rev. George Wesley Lee in Belzoni, Miss.

The wired demand to the White House was sent by the Rev. J. Cooper, Dean of the Unity Conference of the Baptist Association of Chicago and Vicinity.

The church leader told Eisenhower that the answer which the Baptist group here received from the U. S. Department of Justice on this matter was "unsatisfactory."

The organization has sent a vigorous demand to Attorney General Brownell calling for immediate

investigation and punishment of those responsible for the murder of Rev. Lee May 6. The Rev. Lee defied the so-called White Citizens Councils which have been organized to block desegregation in the schools and prevent Negro citizens from exercising their democratic rights.

The Rev. Cooper's wire to Eisenhower declared:

"Your pronouncement at the Summit meeting were good, but how about the rights of the millions of American Negroes right here at home?"

"Unless we get immediate action on this matter, we will present this issue to the United Nations General Assembly."

This is a clipping from
page 4 of the

() Daily Worker
() The Worker
() New Leader

Date AUG 2 1955
Clipped at the Seat of
Government

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Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
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 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Mr. Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

BAUMGARDNER

ADD 1 NEGRO VOTE

HE SAID REV. GEORGE WESLEY LEE WAS SHOT TO DEATH AT BELZONI, MISS. LAST MAY. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION FAILED TO ESTABLISH ALLEGATIONS THAT HE WAS KILLED WHILE INSISTING ON HIS RIGHT TO VOTE. OLNEY SAID THEREFORE, HE SAID, THE INVESTIGATION FAILED TO SHOW "ANY VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAWS."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LETTERS TO BOTH DOYLE AND ROOSEVELT SAID ATTORNEY GENERAL HERBERT BROWNELL, JR., FELT THAT EXISTING LAW WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE AS IT IS "SECURED OR INTENDED TO BE SECURED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES."

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 76 MAR 30 1956

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

FBI Finds No Proof Of NAACP Charge

By the Associated Press

Attorney General Brownell said today he has checked further inquiry into the slaying of a Negro civil rights leader at Belzoni, Miss., last May to local authorities in that State.

Mr. Brownell said in a statement that "Federal jurisdiction does not exist" in the case of the Rev. George Wesley Lee, found dead in his wrecked automobile May 7, 1955.

However, the Attorney General said that "certain information" gathered by the FBI has been turned over to State District Attorney Stanny Sanders of the 4th Mississippi circuit.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People contends that Mr. Lee, 51, was murdered because he would not withdraw his name from the list of registered voters at Belzoni.

But the Attorney General's statement said:

"The investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation do not substantiate the allegations that the Rev. Lee was murdered because of his refusal to remove his name from the Humphreys County (Miss.) list of registered voters.

"Since Federal jurisdiction does not exist, I instructed United States Attorney Thomas R. Ellridge to furnish District Attorney Sanders with pertinent facts."

Tolson ☒
Nichols ☒
Boardman ☒
Belmont ☒
Mason ☒
Mohr ☒
Parsons ☒
Rosen ☒
Tamm ☒
Nease ☒
Winterrowd ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holloman ☒
Gandy ☒

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Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
Wash. News _____
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N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
N. Y. Mirror _____
N. Y. Daily News _____
Daily Worker _____
The Worker _____
New Leader _____

Date MAR 13 1956

71 MAR 23 1956

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But the Attorney General's statement said:

"The investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation do not substantiate the allegations that the Rev. Lee was murdered because of his refusal to remove his name from the Humphreys County (Miss.) list of registered voters."

"Since Federal jurisdiction does not exist, I instructed United States Attorney Thomas R. Ethridge to furnish District Attorney Sanders with pertinent facts."

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New Leader _____

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Mr. Tolson ☒
 Mr. Nichols ☒
 Mr. Boardman ☒
 Mr. Belmont ☒
 Mr. Mason ☒
 Mr. Mohr ☒
 Mr. Parsons ☒
 Mr. Rosen ☒
 Mr. Tamm ☒
 Mr. Nease ☒
 Mr. Winterrowd ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Mr. Holloman ☒
 Miss Gandy ☒

BAUMGARDNER

File
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See Sullivan
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(MURDER)

THE FBI HAS DETERMINED THAT THE MURDER OF A NEGRO MINISTER IN BELZONI, MISS., LAST MAY WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE MINISTER'S INSISTENCE ON NEGRO VOTING RIGHTS, ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWNELL ANNOUNCED.

BROWNELL SAID THE FBI ACCORDINGLY HAS ENDED ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF THE REV. GEORGE WESLEY LEE, 51, WHOSE SHOTGUN-RIDDLED BODY WAS FOUND IN HIS WRECKED CAR IN BELZONI LAST MAY 7.

BROWNELL SAID RESULTS OF THE FBI INQUIRY WILL BE TURNED OVER TO MISSISSIPPI STATE AUTHORITIES ON GROUNDS THAT "FEDERAL JURISDICTION DOES NOT EXIST." THE FBI WOULD HAVE JURISDICTION ONLY IF THE MURDER INVOLVED A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS.

LEE WAS A LOCAL LEADER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE. HIS DEATH WAS REGARDED AS A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT UNTIL A NEGRO PHYSICIAN FOUND SHOTGUN PELLETS IN THE BODY.

BROWNELL SAID THE FBI'S FINDINGS "DO NOT SUBSTANTIATE THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE REV. LEE WAS MURDERED BECAUSE OF HIS REFUSAL TO REMOVE HIS NAME FROM THE HUMPHREYS COUNTY, MISS., LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS."

"I TRUST THAT THOSE GUILTY OF THIS VICIOUS CRIME WILL BE DISCOVERED AND DEALT WITH AS JUSTICE DEMANDS UNDER THE LAW OF THE STATE," BROWNELL SAID.

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

FBI Quits Probe Of Negro Slaying In Mississippi

WASHINGTON (UP)—The FBI has determined that the murder of a Negro minister in Belzoni, Miss., was not connected with insistence on Negro voting rights.

Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr. announced that the FBI accordingly has ended its investigation into the death of the Rev. George Wesley Lee, 51, whose shotgun-riddled body was found in his wrecked car in Belzoni last May 7.

Brownell said results of the FBI inquiry will be turned over to Mississippi state authorities on grounds that "federal jurisdiction does not exist." The FBI would have jurisdiction only if the murder involved a violation of federal civil rights.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mason _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
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Mr. Holloman _____
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CHICAGO SUN - TIMES

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Date MAR - 4 1956

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Mr. Tolson	_____
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Mr. Rosen	_____
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Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Clegg	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

PROSECUTOR WEIGHS NEGRO DEATH DATA

Belzoni Minister's Case May Be Reopened

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BELZONI, Miss., March 13.—A decision on whether to launch a new investigation into the death of Negro minister George Wesley Lee was being reserved by Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders pending study of a report by United States Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr.

Mr. Brownell said "Federal jurisdiction does not exist" in the case, but that "certain information" gathered by the FBI has been turned over to Mr. Sanders.

Rev. Lee, who was 51, was found dead in his wrecked auto last May 7. It was at first believed the death was from an

auto accident, but the FBI later reported that "pellets similar to No. 3 buckshot" had been extracted from the body. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of death from a wound, "the cause of which is not clear."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has charged that Rev. Lee was murdered because he would not withdraw his name from the list of registered voters at Belzoni.

However, Mr. Brownell said, "The investigations conducted by the FBI do not substantiate the allegations that Rev. Lee was murdered because of his refusal to remove his name from the

Humphreys County, Miss., list of registered voters."

Mr. Brownell

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FROM: THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

DATE 3-14-56
MAR 23 1956

FBI Steps Out Of State Case

No Federal Offense In Minister's Death

WASHINGTON, March 13—(INS)— Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., announced today that FBI information on the murder of a Negro minister last May has been turned over to Mississippi officials for prosecution.

Brownell said, however, that the FBI inquiry does not substantiate charges that the minister was killed for refusing to remove his name from a voting list.

The case involves the slaying of the Rev. George Wesley Lee at Belzoni, Miss., May 7, 1955. Lee was found dead in a wrecked car, but investigation showed pellets resembling buckshot in his body.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other groups charged that the minister was murdered because he refused to take his name from the registration list for Humphreys County, Miss.

Brownell said that while the FBI investigation does not substantiate such charges, "certain information" on the crime has been turned over to Mississippi District Attorney Stanny Sanders. He declared: "Since Federal jurisdiction does not exist, I instructed U. S. Attorney Thomas R. Ethridge to furnish District Attorney Sanders with pertinent facts. I trust that those guilty of this vicious crime will be discovered and dealt with as justice demands under the laws of the state."

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
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*Mr. Hoffman
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Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Boardman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Mr. Mason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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March 6

BAUMGARTNER

A State's Next Move

No Federal violation was involved in the murder of Rev. GEORGE W. LEE, Negro, at Belzoni, Miss., last May. That, in net, is the finding of Atty. Gen. BROWNELL, who has announced that results of an FBI inquiry into the slaying have been turned over to state officials.

The NAACP had loudly and persistently claimed that Rev. LEE was killed because he refused to remove his name from the Humphreys County registration list. The Attorney General's statement that "Federal jurisdiction does not exist" disposes of the NAACP claim.

A murder remains unpunished, however, and murder is intolerable wherever and wherever committed. Humphreys County officials have a duty to perform.

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FROM: THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
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**BROWNELL DROPS PROBE
 OF REV. LEE'S MURDER**

He based himself on an "FBI investigation" of the murder, which occurred May 7, 1955.

Brownell said the FBI probe did "not substantiate the allegations" that Rev. Lee was murdered because of his refusal to remove his name from the Humphrey County, Miss., list of registered voters.

Brownell expressed the hope that "these guilty of this vicious crime will be discovered and dealt with as justice demands under the laws of the state."

Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
 Wash. News _____
 Wash. Star _____
 N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
 N. Y. Mirror _____
 N. Y. Daily News _____
 Daily Worker 2 _____
 The Worker _____
 New Leader _____

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Date MAR 14 1956

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John H. ...
...

HOUSE TO TAKE FOR LAWS ON RIGHTS

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 13—

The Justice Department is expected to send its long-delayed civil rights statement to Congress a week from tomorrow or soon afterward. The date was set for a meeting between William P. Rogers, the Deputy Attorney General, and a bipartisan House group working the civil rights legislation.

President Eisenhower in his State of the Union message promised a further statement on civil rights measures.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. said today the Federal Government had no jurisdiction over a Mississippi killing alleged to have been connected with voting rights. He asked the state to handle what he called a "vicious crime."

The case at issue was that of a Negro minister, the Rev. George Wesley Lee, who died following an automobile accident in Belzoni, Miss., on May 7, 1955. Two Negro physicians said they found lead pellets in his face after the accident. The charge was made that Mr. Lee had been murdered because he had refused to remove his name from a voting list.

Mr. Brownell said today that an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation "did not substantiate the allegations." He added that he had ordered the facts discovered by the F. B. I. turned over to Mississippi authorities.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

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Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nichols.....
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Mr. Belmont.....
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Tele. Room.....
Mr. Holloman.....
Miss Gandy.....

GRAND JURY CLOSES EXPLOSION INQUIRY

No Action Taken On Death Of Belzoni Negro

Special to The Commercial Appeal
BELZONI, Miss., July 18. — After studying an FBI report on the 1954 death of a Belzoni Negro minister and leader in the local NAACP, the Humphreys County Grand Jury has "closed" an investigation of the case.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders of Indianola, Wednesday revealed the grand jury action, stating that "as far as I am concerned the case is closed unless there's some new development." He did not reveal the findings of the FBI investigation.

Rev. George Wesley Lee, a county leader in the NAACP, died after an auto wreck here. The inquest included testimony of explosions immediately before the crash. Negro physicians said they found lead pellets in the minister's face, but white physicians made no such report.

The case was presented to the United States Department of Justice, which assigned FBI agents to investigate whether civil rights were violated. The FBI made a report which was given to Mr. Sanders.

The district attorney declined to divulge any of the FBI report.

"Although the report was turned over to us, it's really theirs (the FBI)," he said.

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*The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.*

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1CC: AAG CRIMINAL DIVISION
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